

DEMOCRAT MAJORITY BUYING VOTES

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, many of us in this Chamber find it absolutely incomprehensible that there are those who believe that the best course of action in the face of a determined enemy is to tell that enemy that we are less than determined. Yet that is exactly what the Iraq supplemental financing bill does.

What message do we send our brave military men and women when we won't guarantee them the resources and equipment that they need without including a litany of restrictive and arbitrary timetables? What will our soldiers on the front lines of this war think when they hear that salmon fisheries and spinach growers are being used to buy votes?

This Iraq supplemental bill is just one more step in what has become a long list of unprecedented attempts by this majority to accept defeat at any cost. For those of us in Washington, we get to face this moment in the warmth and comfort of our homes and our offices. For so many Americans, they will face this moment in the harsh reality of a war zone. We must not forget what is at stake. Our military will not and the American people will not.

THE DEMOCRATIC BUDGET

(Mr. ALTMIRE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, Democrats this week complete committee work on a 2008 budget that finally moves us away from the fiscal irresponsibility, reckless spending and record deficits of the past 6 years. When President Bush first came into office, America had just had 4 consecutive years of budget surplus, forecast to continue as far as the eye can see. Now, 6 years later, Republicans have turned a projected \$5.5 trillion surplus into a \$3 trillion deficit. They borrowed more money from foreign nations in the past 6 years than we had in the past 212 years combined.

Fortunately, Democrats have a new set of priorities, one that moves America towards a balanced budget for the first time in 6 years.

IRAQ

(Mr. CALVERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the majority party's Iraq supplemental appropriations bill. I returned from Iraq last week where I met with our troops. The one question I was asked repeatedly was, "Why doesn't Congress support us?" I told them that I do support them. Unfortunately, this bill does not.

Right now, we have the A-Team in Iraq and they are producing results. I saw it firsthand:

Sunnis working with Shia and the United States Marine Corps in the al-Anbar province.

Sunnis looking forward to the next elections.

An oil distribution plan that is on the brink of completion.

The majority supplemental bill is simply defeat on the installment plan. How can Congress convey our support for the troops in Iraq and at the same time pass a bill which pulls the rug from the very people we claim to support? Plain and simple, this supplemental as written by the majority is a blueprint for defeat.

I urge my colleagues to reject this bill and pass a clean supplemental bill that provides support to those who are fighting and dying. We owe them that much.

DEMOCRATS WILL CLEAN UP FISCAL MESS CREATED OVER THE LAST 6 YEARS

(Mr. PERLMUTTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Good morning, Madam Speaker.

This week, the House Budget Committee will prepare a Democratic budget that begins the process of fixing a fiscal mess created by President Bush and congressional Republicans over the last 6 years. This is not something that can be done in one year. After all, it took the prior Congresses and administration 6 years to turn a \$5.6 trillion surplus into a \$2.8 trillion deficit. That's a fiscal collapse over a 6-year period of more than \$8 trillion. The misguided budget priorities of this administration have forced the President to borrow more money from countries like Japan and China than all of his 42 predecessors combined. That is not only a budget concern but also a serious national security concern.

It's time that we get our fiscal house in order. The Democratic budget will restore fiscal sanity here in Washington by actually balancing the budget over the next 5 years. This is something that the Republicans were not able to accomplish over the last 6. The Democratic budget will bring about change and a new direction in sound budgetary policies.

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MICROMANAGEMENT OF WAR WRONG

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I have a very easy question: What does support for spinach farmers have to do with fighting the war in Iraq and Afghanistan? The easy answer is: Nothing.

But in the emergency war supplemental appropriation bill that we are considering this week, spinach farmers will be getting support. In fact, there is over \$21 billion of unrelated spending in the bill; pork, pure and simple. And the purpose is simply to buy votes.

I thought the Democrats promised to stop all of this. I thought they said they were going to clean up Washington and not waste taxpayers' money. This is hypocrisy, and you have to ask why they need to buy votes if they are so confident in their slow-bleed strategy.

I said during the debate on this non-binding resolution that the House considered a few weeks ago that micromanagement from the White House is wrong and micromanagement from the floor of this House is worse.

The emergency supplemental is not nonbinding, it is for real, and many Democrats will be joining Republicans to vote to let the generals run the war, not politicians, regardless of money for spinach farmers.

BRING OUR TROOPS HOME

(Ms. SHEA-PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Madam Speaker, there are those who say we need to support our troops. The question is what troops, the same troops we have sent out three and four times? I have asked my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to please look at the armed services numbers and see the strain that we are putting on our military.

I have also asked them to think about if they had family members there, would they still be talking about supporting the troops in such a way as to put them in harm's danger?

Supporting our troops means getting them out of a civil war. Support our country by caring for our own people and bringing our money home to protect our borders in this country.

We need to spend money to build our military back up. We need to protect our borders, and we need to support our troops and support their families by bringing our troops home now.

PREVENTION OF VETERAN SUICIDES

(Mrs. CAPITO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Joshua Omvig Suicide Prevention Act, of which I am a cosponsor. The House will consider this important legislation today.

Roughly one in five military personnel returning from active duty suffers from a debilitating condition called post-traumatic stress syndrome. Unfortunately, the effects of PTSD have hit close to home for one family in my district. Their son, Sergeant

Charles Call, of the United States Army, always dreamed of serving his country. He even left his unit, which was not being sent to Iraq, and joined another that was being deployed so he could be with those fighting for our freedom and safety. He loved his country and was willing to make that sacrifice.

After returning from Iraq, he developed the symptoms of PTSD. Despite his attempts to seek help from the local veterans hospital, he did not receive the treatment he so desperately needed; and, sadly, Sergeant Call took his own life on February 3, 2006.

With the passage of this legislation, we can finally provide a safety net for our veterans coming home and prevent tragedies like that of Sergeant Call. It is crucial that they have the resources needed to pursue healthy lives upon returning to civilian life. Screening of all returning combat veterans and 24-hour access to counseling are just some of the options we must offer.

I support this in the name of Sergeant Charles Call.

ASSISTANCE TO THOSE INJURED IN COMBAT

(Mr. HODES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HODES. Madam Speaker, we have entered the fifth year of the war in Iraq, and thousands of soldiers have returned home wounded and in need of serious medical care. The situation at Walter Reed made it clear that changes must be made to ensure that our wounded troops receive timely comprehensive care that extends through the length of their condition.

To provide these crucial services, more is needed for defense health care than the President requested. The status quo is simply not acceptable for our troops who are injured while serving our country. We owe them our real support.

The emergency supplemental proposed by this Democratic Congress nearly doubles the amount of funding requested by the President for military health care. These additional funds will enhance medical services for active duty forces, mobilized personnel and their families, including: post-traumatic stress disorder counseling, traumatic brain injury care and burn treatment.

The funds will also help prevent health care fee increases for troops and address the problems found at Walter Reed.

Madam Speaker, passage of this bill supports our troops and will ensure that they receive the quality care they deserve.

HONORING U.S. MARSHAL AWARD WINNERS

(Mr. BOOZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise this morning to honor two exceptional people honored recently by the director of the United States Marshal Service. They are two of four honored nationwide.

Mike Blevins, the chief deputy marshal for the Western District of Arkansas, has been awarded the Meritorious Service Award, recognizing his exemplary service to the Marshal Service the last 31 years. Mike is a great example for all of us, and I greatly appreciate his service to community and country.

Trent Thompson, an Eagle Scout, was also named Citizen of the Year by the service. Thompson's Eagle Scout project was making wood memorial markers honoring deputy marshals from the Western District who fell in the line of duty since its inception. Trent is a fine young man, and I appreciate his leadership at such a young age.

I congratulate both of these people who by example indeed have done so much for the people of the Third District of Arkansas, and I congratulate them for their honors.

TROOPS DESERVE OUR SUPPORT

(Mr. SARBANES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, when our Nation is at war, it is our government's responsibility to provide the best protection and care for the men and women who willingly volunteer to serve in our armed services.

Now as we enter the fifth year of the Iraq war, it is no secret that the administration's strategy has dangerously eroded our military readiness. Troops are being sent overseas without the proper training, equipment and armor necessary to keep them safe.

And as the conditions at Walter Reed's Building 18 starkly testify, we must bring much more attention and support to our troops when they return home.

Madam Speaker, this Democratic Congress is committed to supporting our men and women in uniform. The supplemental legislation coming before this House will provide an additional \$1.7 billion for military health care, including conditions at Walter Reed, \$1.7 billion for veterans health care, \$2.5 billion for improving the readiness of our troops, and \$1.4 billion for military housing. As long as they are at war, our troops deserve our support.

ATTORNEY GENERAL GONZALES SHOULD RESIGN

(Mr. CARNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Speaker, I am here today to ask for the resignation of

U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales.

I came to Congress with a pledge to bring back accountability to our Federal Government. Attorney General Gonzales has put his political agenda over the needs of our Justice Department. It is time for real oversight on these issues, and it begins by calling for Mr. Gonzales' resignation.

I am disgusted that this administration is more concerned about protecting themselves rather than the American people. We need unbiased, honorable men and women representing our country in this judicial system, not political favors or hand-outs.

We need a full investigation into the allegations of the plan to remove U.S. Attorneys from their posts anytime they defect from the administration's political agenda. This week, the Justice Department released thousands of pages of e-mails and internal documents related to the U.S. Attorney scandal. The documents are still under review, but it is clear that congressional oversight is needed so we can prosecute offenders.

The House Judiciary Committee is continuing its investigation into this serious matter, and I will continue to fight to ensure that U.S. Attorneys are free from political pressure and have the tools they need to prosecute criminals.

NO MORE BLANK CHECKS

(Mr. MAHONEY of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MAHONEY of Florida. Madam Speaker, when I ran for Congress, I promised to stand up for our veterans and our men and women in uniform. I promised I would do everything in my power to fight and win the war on terror.

Poor political leadership and gross mismanagement has put America in the middle of an increasingly violent religious civil war.

Our troops completed their mission. They removed a brutal dictator, and through \$400 billion of our hard-earned money and our brave men and women's blood, sweat and tears, we gave the Iraqi people the hope for a better life through democracy.

This week I am going to vote to give the President the money he requested. But for the first time, we have the opportunity to hold him accountable to the American people for the promises that he made to us.

This bill gives the President the mandate to keep troops in Iraq for as long as it takes to destroy the terrorists. It sets requirements for troop readiness, provides money to rebuild our military, and gets our troops and our veterans the resources and the help they need.

Mr. President, no more blank checks. Congress and the American people for